

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT & ADVOCACY DIVISION

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cmbond@dmh.lacounty.gov

NATIONAL

- SAMHSA has released its 2013 Recovery Month Toolkit, “Join the Voices for Recovery: Together on Pathways to Wellness,” which assists in planning Recovery Month (September) events and has resources to distribute in communities and during local events that support people with substance abuse disorders and mental illness. Inventory # SMA13-4761.
- Organizing for Action, a nonprofit group allied to President Obama, released a new television ad on July 8 touting the benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ad is the latest in a growing and aggressive public relations tug of war surrounding the ACA’s implementation.

CALIFORNIA and LOS ANGELES

- Between now and August both the California Senate and the Assembly will take a four-week break for summer recess. The Senate will recess on July 13 and return on August 11. The Assembly recess is from July 4 to August 4. During this time, legislators will return home to their districts, so this is a good time to meet with your legislators and speak to them about such issues as LPS Reform and Laura’s Law.
- On June 28, 2013, the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH) hosted the first Client Congress Forum for Members and Friends of the Client Congress. The keynote speakers were Paolo del Vecchio from the Center for Mental Health Services at SAMHSA and Dr. Marvin Southard, Director of LAC-DMH. The two advocacy issues identified by attendees as “most important” were advocating for jobs and addressing mental health stigma in the community. For more information on the event contact clientcongress@dmh.lacounty.gov.

